

1998: THE YEAR OF ARMS CONTROL

**HON. LEE H. HAMILTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 1998*

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to my colleagues' attention a recent op-ed by Senator JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr., entitled *Let 1998 Be the Year of Arms Control*. The excellent article appeared in the *Christian Science Monitor* on February 23, 1998.

I ask that this article be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the *Christian Science Monitor*, Feb. 23, 1998]

LET 1998 BE THE YEAR OF ARMS CONTROL

(By Joseph R. Biden, Jr.)

An increasingly chaotic world demands US leadership across a wide front. From NATO enlargement to Bosnia to Iraq to the Asian economic crisis to the United Nations, the US carries a heavy load.

But those aren't the only problems we face. Arms control has become the forgotten stepchild in foreign policy. We face grave threats to the safety and well-being of the American people. To meet them, the president and Congress should give higher priority to critical arms control initiatives this year.

First, we should implement the Chemical Weapons Convention. Last April, the US ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention outlawing poison gas. Russia, China, India, Iran, and many others also joined. China and India admitted for the first time to having chemical weapons and related facilities, which must be destroyed under the treaty.

But the US is now in violation of the treaty because Congress has failed to enact legislation needed to bring us into compliance. The national security consequences are serious. Until we come into compliance, for example, the US cannot effectively demand that Iran declare and destroy all its chemical weapons facilities—which potentially threaten US forces in Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf.

Second, we should ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. CTBT will inhibit nuclear powers from developing new classes of nuclear weapons and make it extremely difficult for non-nuclear countries to develop sophisticated nuclear weapons at all. Limiting other countries' nuclear efforts will enhance our deterrent posture, which remains vital to world security. It is no accident that the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff and his four immediate predecessors have all endorsed ratification of this treaty.

#### BACKING NONPROLIFERATION

The non-nuclear states consider CTBT an act of good faith by the nuclear powers, in return for their agreeing to permanent nuclear nonproliferation. If we were to reject CTBT and resume testing, as treaty opponents have urged, the nuclear nonproliferation regime could well collapse.

Third, we should ratify the START and ABM Treaty "strategic package." After the Russian Duma ratifies START II, President Clinton will submit to the Senate a package of modifications to the START treaties and the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty. These needed modifications will pave the way for further control of strategic missiles and nuclear warheads under START III and safeguard our ABM research programs.

Some Republicans would kill the ABM treaty outright. That, in turn, would kill the START process: Russia will not give up its

dangerous multiple-warhead missiles if the US moves to build nationwide missile defenses. Scuttling START would be costly and harmful to US national security and would undermine continued adherence to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty by non-nuclear states.

Rejection of the ABM treaty succession agreement would also alienate Ukraine and Kazakhstan. These two nations view the ABM agreement as validating their sovereignty vis-a-vis Russia. If we reject the treaty, they might seek nuclear weapons for protection, thus increasing the risk of a nuclear war in Europe.

Fourth, we should ratify an Anti-Personnel Landmine Protocol. Landmines have produced carnage from Angola to Bosnia, from Afghanistan to Cambodia. The Ottawa Convention banning these mines is controversial. As an alternative, the Senate can and should approve the amended landmine protocol to the Convention on Conventional Weapons, which would limit their use, require safety features, establish an obligation to clean up minefields, and extend the law to civil wars, as well as international ones.

The protocol, which is supported by many powers that would not sign the Ottawa Convention, could save innocent lives while we work to make a worldwide ban feasible for all countries.

#### INCLUDE LIGHT WEAPONS

Fifth, we should seek to control light weapons. We limit weapons of mass destruction, but there are few if any restraints on the most pervasive weapons. From border wars to civil wars to drug wars, the weapons of choice are the military assault rifle, the grenade, and the mortar. American tourists, students, missionaries, and business people have already fallen victim to these weapons. It is in our national interest to control them. The US supports voluntary bans on arms sales to the warring parties in Afghanistan and should explore the potential for other embargoes. The most effective short-term approach may be embargoes on ammunition. But this will work only if other light-arms producers join in. As a first step, Congress should urge US discussions with our European allies on a joint policy.

Arms buy-back programs can also work, if we help protect people who turn in their arms and offer them a decent livelihood. The US assisted a successful buy-back program in Mali, and Congress should fund more such efforts.

This ambitious wish-list will not be completed in a single year. But these issues affect the safety and lives of our citizens, and we should start addressing them.

#### HONORING THE CENTRAL FAIRFAX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PUBLIC SAFETY AWARD WINNERS

**HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 1998*

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce Public Safety Award Winners. The Public Safety Awards honor the City of Fairfax's finest Police Officers and Fire & Rescue personnel who have gone above and beyond the call of duty on a daily basis. On Thursday, February 26, 1998, the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce will present the Annual Public Safety Awards to these brave public servants at the Fairfax City Holiday Inn.

*1997 Officer of the Year: Detective Albert L. Leightley, III.* On October 10, 1997, Detective Leightley successfully apprehended two credit card fraud suspects. From his interview with these suspects and from further investigations, Detective Leightley was led to other accomplices. By the time Detective Leightley closed this case, he had eight criminal arrests and had assisted the surrounding jurisdictions in closing numerous criminal cases of their own. Detective Leightley is known for solving the "impossible" larceny cases, often given few facts, leads or physical evidence. He has an outstanding record of closing forty-nine percent of his cases with a sixty-four percent arrest rate for 1997.

*1997 Dispatcher of the Year: Betty I. Powers.* On September 21, 1997, Dispatcher Powers was working alone in communications when two serious incidents occurred almost simultaneously. She remained calm under pressure as she dispatched police and fire department support to a felony traffic stop and to a hostile fight situation. This is just one of many examples of the professionalism and dedication to duty routinely displayed by Dispatcher Powers.

*1997 Firefighter/Paramedic of the Year: Fire Medic Bruce Suslowitz.* During the seven years Fire Medic Suslowitz has been with the Fairfax City Fire Department, he has consistently performed outstanding service to those in need. He has gained the trust and faith of his patients with his compassionate, caring and professional manner. He has not only been an invaluable asset to the community but to the Fire & Rescue Department as well. He has participated on numerous department committees, created several public service programs, and has served as a mentor to Paramedic interns.

*1997 Lifesaving Award: Officer Eduardo J. Azcarate.* In the early morning hours of September 21, 1997, Officer Azcarate was dispatched to George Mason University to provide assistance in ending a large fight. When he arrived on the scene, he rushed to the aid of a stabbing victim. While his fellow officers controlled the crowd, Officer Azcarate performed rescue breathing on the victim until Fire & Rescue units arrived. Officer Azcarate helped saved the victim's life by stepping into a hostile situation and without hesitation, performing emergency medical intervention.

*1997 Lifesaving Award: Battalion Chief Kenneth Hahn.* On July 17, 1997, Battalion Chief Hahn responded to the home of a man who was having chest pains, but did not want fire department aid. The man insisted on waiting for his friend to take him to the hospital. Battalion Chief Hahn was concerned for the man's well-being and insisted on staying with the man until his friend got there. Ten minutes later, the man went into cardiac arrest. Battalion Chief Hahn quickly called to help, and initiated Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation until more fire department assistance arrived. Battalion Chief Hahn then addressed the concerns of the man's family and friends. Battalion Chief Hahn's conscientious actions were vital in saving this man's life.

*1997 Lifesaving Award: Captain John Ahrens and Fire Medic William Schwarz.* On September 29, 1997, Medic 33 was dispatched for an obstetrical emergency. When Captain Ahrens and Fire Medic Schwarz arrived, they found a woman lying on her back with a 2 month premature infant on her chest.